

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed September 5, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,628,743 (Drummond) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,421,331 (Devito) is respectfully traversed. Drummond is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because of common ownership. Drummond was, at the time the present invention was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to GE Medical Systems Global Technology Company, LLC, which is wholly-owned by General Electric Company. General Electric Company is the owner of the application at hand. Thus, the application at hand and Drummond were, at the time the present invention was made, commonly owned by General Electric Company. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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